As of January 1st, 2012, a new driving law has been implemented by the North Carolina legislature: one that will affect some members of the student community profoundly.

For those who have not yet taken Driver’s Ed and qualified for their permit, the new law specifies that all new drivers will have to fill out a lengthy log of their driving: 60 hours worth. This log would need to provide such information as who the subject was driving with, how long he drove for, and a parent signature witnessing that the log is properly documented.

In addition, only 10 hours of driving per week can count towards the 60-hour requirement, and 10 hours must take place during nighttime conditions.

This new law is a far cry from laws last year, when no log at all was required. Now, as of the passing of the new law, drivers who do not fill out their logs fully and properly will not be able to get their full license until the completed log is turned in. If there is not adequate documentation from the driver, and a parent signature, he may be required to start his record over from the beginning.

This stringent new law will make the graduated license process more difficult for teens new to driving. The new laws require more of a time commitment than previous laws, or the laws of many other states.

To date, there has been little outcry on the subject. The timing of the law is likely the major reason for this. January is not the prime time for most students to take Driver’s Ed. Most students choose to take the class in the spring or the fall, frequently while they are on break.

The timing of this new law means that it will likely go unchallenged until the next crop of drivers.

Some students, aware that the new law was going to be implemented, took Driver’s Ed in the Fall, managing to scrape around the deadline. But for those who have yet to begin their driving program, this law will come as an unpleasant surprise.

“I think that this new law is a little bit over-the-top. I’m all for road safety, but this new law is just too much”, said freshman Chris Bauer. Many students felt very strongly that the new law was too much of a time commitment, or that there doesn’t seem to be much point to it. “I think it just has a little too much force behind it.”, said freshman Katy Detter. Many Charlotte Catholic students shared this point of view, but not all.

“I think it’s a good idea that the state doesn’t rush people through driving. It keeps the roads safe”, said freshman Sean Sweeney. He, however, is pretty much alone on that subject.

Unfortunately for most students, however, this law is likely here to stay. If there is enough of a protest, there is a chance that the law could be repealed. But most likely, new drivers will just have to learn to live with the log.